

House Swap Declared Unanimous Success

By Karin Bartow

Although vacation house-swapping is not a new idea, it may be today's answer to inflation's prescribed stay-at-home medicine.

It may also be a better, and more comfortable, way to see another country. The Meacham's, Kay, Kirby, and their son Arthur, of 47 Black Rock Road recently returned from a three week vacation in Europe where they were based in Guildford, England at the home of Pam and Steve

Palmer. The Palmer's came west and settled at the Meacham's home for their holiday. Both families are seasoned travelers and veteran house-swappers.

It all begins with a listing in a book published by Vacation Home Exchange. You state your desired destination, estimated time of vacation, and give a little information about yourselves, your home, and environs. The book suggests how to proceed once you've made contacts from among the 2,000 listers, but you're on

your own from there. Once letters begin arriving things get exciting. Pictures and more detailed information are exchanged until the field is narrowed down and a definite swap is negotiated.

The Palmers have been vacationing this way for 10 years and have visited the U.S. many times before, although this was their first visit to the Northeast coast. Their family, including Mark, 16, Clare, 13 and Nicholas, 10, wanted a location where they could stay put. They did some sight-seeing, but mostly relaxed and enjoyed Sandy Beach, the Swim Center, the Sailing Club, and other summer activities of Cohasset.

"What struck us is that life would be most difficult without a sticker," comments Pam

dryly. They met and made many friends and were generously welcomed. One big highlight of their visit was a lobster and clam dinner prepared by JoAnn Rossi — something they'd never have in England.

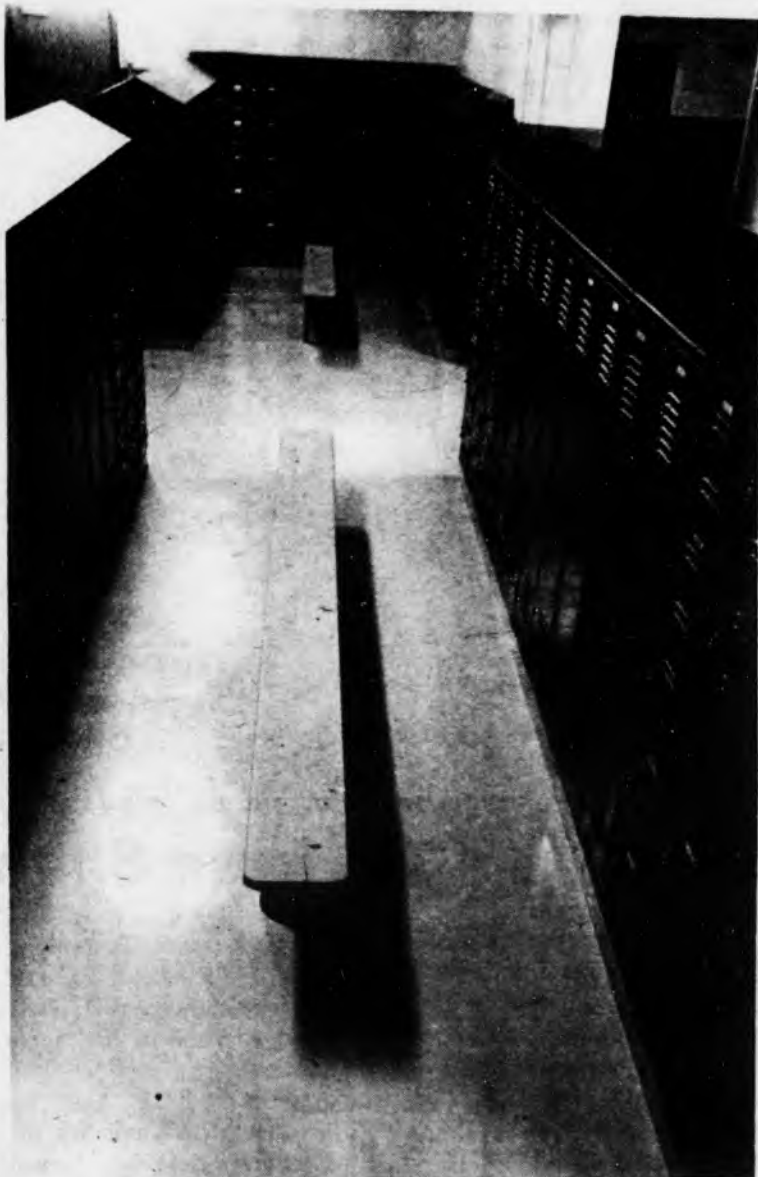
Pam is an economics teacher of 16 and 17 year old boys at the Royal Grammar School in Guildford, a county town of Surrey of 58,000, located about 30 miles south of London. Steve is an airline pilot for British Airways. They hope to return to Cohasset next summer and have made tentative plans to house-swap again with another family.

This was the third swap for the Meachams, and like the others to the New Jersey shore and Washington D.C., a very successful one.

Their interest was in tour-

ing, but they did have a chance to meet some English families and they were invited into several homes for traditional Sunday tea. The rest of their time was spent in one of three ways: they rode the train to London for sight-seeing and theatre; they walked the ancient footpaths which cover England and carry travelers far back into history; and they took day trips by car to Stonehenge, the ancient seaport of Rye, Winchester, and many other places. They also visited friends in Friel, France.

both families managed a little overlap time on both ends to acquaint each other with their respective homes, neighborhoods, and countries, and to compare vacations. The "swap" was declared a unanimous success by all.



Brand new lockers in girls locker room at Cohasset High School to mark the beginning of the 1979-1980 school year.

Operation Storage Vault

The storage vault for the town's permanent records, authorized and constructed under Article 20 of the 1977 Town Meeting, now is in full operation in the high school.

Most of the permanent records that were stored in the Town Hall have been moved to the new vault. These records include books formerly located in the auditorium vault, the cellar store room and the Selectmen's vault.

There are no permanent records stored in the cellar store room, nor should any be stored there in the future.

An extensive collection of documents, both old and new, also remain in the auditorium vault. Many of the oldest of these papers have been preserved within protective plastic folders of accepted archival material.

A large steel storage locking cabinet is located within the new high school vault for

the additional protection of the oldest and most valuable documents and books. The folder has been given a coat of fire-retardant paint in accordance with state requirements.

Other features include new fluorescent lighting, which has greatly improved reading capability within the vault, and a new wire screen enclosure, which has been constructed in front of the vault entrance to provide open space and to protect the combination lock on the vault door.

Of great assistance in the development of the new high school storage vault have been Superintendent of the Tree and Park Department Peter Laugelle and members of the Tree and Park Department; Superintendent of the Wire Department Stephen Wigmore and department members James McNamara and Richard Gallo; and custodians Kenneth Sargent of the Town

Hall and Richard Ainslie of the schools.

The transfer of the Town's permanent records was aided by Wally Young and Herb March, also of the Tree and Park Department. Valuable assistance has been rendered by three recreation department summer CETA employees, Tara, Lauren and Chris McNabb, without whom the project could not have been carried out so expeditiously. They were instrumental in making the transfer, worked to organize the books in the new vault, and have aided in gathering together some of the short-term temporary records being stored in the Town Hall.

The Town should examine the advantages of installing air-conditioning and humidity controls in the high school vault to assist in the preservation of our older records.

David Wadsworth
Town Archivist



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